

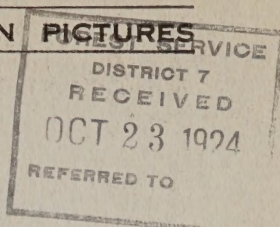
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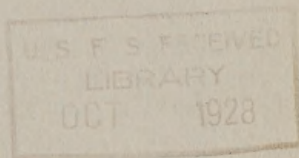
FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH IN

PICTURES



NO. 50

IS IT WORTH WHILE TO PILE LUMBER CAREFULLY?



FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

Many a lumberman puts his cigars in a humidor, his food in a refrigerator, his clothes in a cedar closet, his money in an armor-plated vault, and then piles his lumber — the only source of his wealth — close to the ground, higgledy-piggledy on rotten timbers, in a weedy, poorly drained yard. Such conditions are illustrated photographically here. The rows of stickers waver up through the piles causing individual boards to warp, and the ends of mixed lengths at the back of the piles sag and twist. Weeds choke the scanty air channels beneath the piles, and the ever-present fungi are quietly rotting lumber to dust where the pools of moist air lie stagnant.

Low-grade lumber is, of course, the most abused. If, however, it is worth seasoning or storing at all it is hard to understand why any lumberman slights the piling by a few hours' labor and permits its value to toboggan further. Certainly the lumberman with limited resources can ill afford to let his product deteriorate needlessly.

Lumber carelessly piled in a dirty yard often degrades as much as 25 per cent. If the application of only a trifle more labor will prevent the loss, it can hardly fail to show a profit and result in a worth-while saving of wood as well.

Photographs by Forest Products Laboratory, U. S. Forest Service



This pile of lumber has at least a sort of roof. Its most remarkable characteristics are, however, the projecting ends and the rich bank of vegetation which checks ventilation and harbors moisture and fungi.



Some of the layers in this lumber pile seem to have been heaped rather than piled. After the first few single layers had been piled and stickered after a fashion, the task grew wearisome — as tasks will — and the piling grew more and more slipshod, the stickers fewer as the top was neared. As it stands it is an ingenious contrivance for imparting a permanent curve to most of the boards.

